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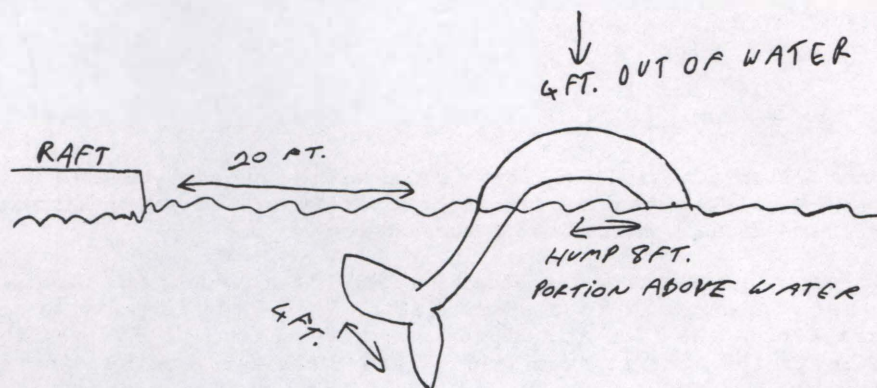
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CLOSE ENCOUNTER IN LAKE OKANAGAN REVEALED



Drawing by the witness, Mrs. B. Clark, of an animal she saw in Lake Okanagan in July, 1974. The witness had just jumped onto the raft after the animal made physical contact with her legs. Cetacean-like flukes were observed about 5-8 feet beneath the surface. No head was observed, but the animal was described as long and slender.

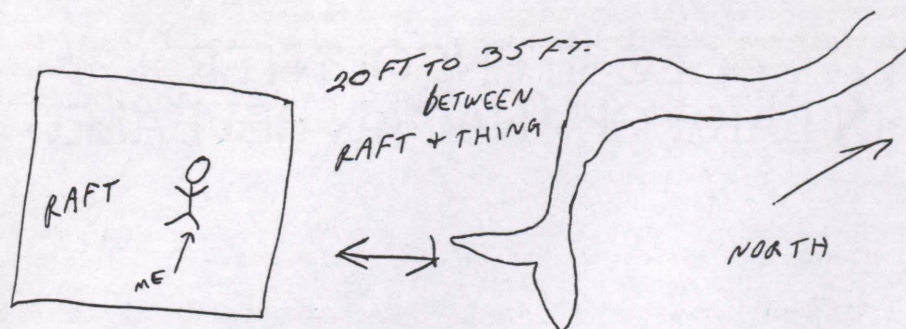
A remarkable "close encounter" between a "lake monster" and a Canadian woman in the 1970's was recently revealed to the Society. The event took place near the southern shore of Lake Okanagan, British Columbia, Canada, when the witness, now a married woman, was a teen-age student. The witness, who wishes to be referred to simply as Mrs. B. Clark, was alone at the time, and had actual physical contact with the unknown animal while she was swimming. This is the first time Mrs. Clark has publicly described her experience.

It is believed that this is the first time that a witness has had physical contact with a "lake monster," or at least has claimed to have done so.

The exact date of the event is no longer recalled, but Mrs. Clark, in her report to the Society, states that it occurred in mid-July of 1974, at about 8 a.m., while she was taking a morning swim in the lake. The sky was partly cloudy, but it

was generally sunny and warm. The lake's surface was "ripply."

Mrs. Clark's report states: "I did not see it [the animal] first. I felt it. I was swimming towards a raft/diving platform located about a quarter of a mile offshore, when something big and heavy bumped my legs. At this point, I was about 3 feet from the raft, and I made a mad dash for it and got out of the water. It was then that I saw it." The report goes on to describe the observation: "When I first saw it, it was about 15 to 20 feet away. I could see a hump or coil which was 8 feet long and 4 feet above the water moving in a forward motion. It was traveling north, away from me. It did not seem to be in much of a rush, and it swam very slowly. The water was very clear, and 5 to 10 feet behind the hump, about 5 to 8 feet below the surface, I could see its tail. The tail was forked and horizontal like a whale's, and it was 4 to 6 feet wide. As the hump submerged, the tail came to the surface until its



Drawing by the witness, Mrs. B. Clark, of the animal as it swam away from her and the raft. It left a large wake as it swam slowly towards the north. Its vertical undulating progression indicates mammalian locomotion in water.

tip poked above the water about a foot.... About 4 or 5 minutes passed from the time it bumped me until the time it swam from view."

The report by Mrs. Clark went on to give specific details: the estimated length of the serpentine-shaped animal was 25 to 30 feet. Its breadth was estimated at 3 to 4 feet. Its color was described as "a very dull dark grey." No head was observed, and it appeared that the animal kept its head below the surface. The witness "got the impression that the head joined the body without a neck--like a fish or snake." She also felt that "it may have had fins, but I didn't see any." No hair was discerned, but "on its back it had light colored stripes and on its tail it had light colored round spots. The animal was long, narrow, and smooth. Because it was moving away, I could only see its back and tail."

The report continues: "It was in the process of diving when I first saw it. It did not completely surface again, but it was so large and the water so clear that I could see it very well as it lazily swam north just a few feet below the surface.... It swam north in an undulating manner. Although it swam smoothly and well, it created a very large wake. It traveled about 3-5 miles per

hour. It moved up and down.... After it was too far away to see any more, I could still see the large wake for several minutes until it too disappeared." The animal itself was not heard to make any call or noise, and no cetacean-like blowing was heard or observed. Mrs. Clark believes that the animal "was 'very curious about me' and 'the shock of seeing it freaked me out.'"

In her summary, Mrs. Clark states: "At the time, I could not believe my eyes, so I told myself it was just a big fish. However, fish don't grow that big (in lakes anyway) or behave the way this thing did. This thing looked and acted more like a whale than a fish, but I have never seen a whale that skinny and snaky-looking before. Nor have I ever heard of any that fit that description. I have seen killer whales perform at the Vancouver Aquarium, and although the animal I saw had a whale-like tail, it didn't use it the same way as normal whales. By this I mean that it didn't seem to rely on it to the same extent as regular whales. Instead of using it as its main source of propulsion, it kind of 'humped' itself along like a giant inchworm.... I really have no idea what I saw, but it was definitely not reptilian, and I'm sure it wasn't a fish."

Mrs. Clark also stated that

she did not report her encounter at the time as "I was afraid no one would believe me." After receiving the report, the Editor contacted Mrs. Clark to propose publishing the highlights of her encounter in the Newsletter, and, because reservations had been expressed about unwanted publicity, to propose that a pseudonym be used. Her response was: "Although we are not seeking publicity, I would not mind you using the report provided you refer to me as Mrs. B. Clark. We do not want our address used, however. While we wish to remain semi-anonymous, to protect our privacy, we would find it offensive to see my sighting in print with another name attached to it."

As most Society members are aware, reports of a "monster" in Lake Okanagan go back to the past century, and even predate the arrival of Anglo settlers. The Indians called it naitaka, and the non-Indian name of Ogo-pogo was bestowed in the 1920's. Over 200 sighting reports have been catalogued by local investigator Arlene Gaal (see Interview, Newsletter, Summer, 1986), compared to about 260 Champ reports compiled by Lake Champlain investigator Joseph Zarzynski. (A recent compilation of Nessie reports lists over 900 sightings, but a more discriminating list compiled by Roy Mackal 10 years ago gave about 250 reports.) Indeed, like at Loch Ness in Scotland and Lake Champlain, nestled between the U.S. states of New York and Vermont, the communities surrounding Lake Okanagan have a benevolent disposition towards their monster, one reason undoubtedly being the economic benefits derived from increased tourism.

The community which has benefited most is Kelowna, a picturesque but surprisingly modern town on the eastern side. The Kelowna Museum maintains an archive on Ogo-pogo, and the Chamber of Commerce provides fact sheets on the monster to

visiting tourists, and sells monster souvenirs. Although not as sophisticated as the marketing efforts at Loch Ness, one product is quite imaginative: a sealed tin can containing an Ogopogo embryo floating in a liquid, which is guaranteed to grow to maturity provided the can is not opened before June 9 in the year 2000. And in a waterfront city park a green statue of Ogopogo has stood for many years, with humps curling up and down. Because some of the statue's teeth tend to disappear during the tourist season, a local dentist re-attaches new teeth from time to time as a free service -- with appropriate press coverage.

Then, in 1983, the local Tourist Association announced a \$1 million reward for "proof" of Ogopogo's existence. In the unlikely event of the Association having to pay up, an insurance policy was purchased from Lloyds of London--which only added color to the proceedings (see Newsletter, Spring, 1984). The \$1 million reward is no longer in effect, but the Association now offers free lakeside incentive packages.

Like at Loch Ness and Lake Champlain, however, there is a serious cryptozoological component to Ogopogo, which essentially addresses the question: Do large, unknown animals inhabit the lake? As with most Scottish lochs--and, again, Lake Champlain--Lake Okanagan (and most other British Columbia lakes) has a primarily late Pleistocene geological history, with previously more accessible connections to the Pacific Ocean, and isostatic rebound of the land, which essentially landlocked the lake. As has been proposed for Loch Ness, it is possible that large marine animals may have become ecologically "trapped" in the lake, and certainly now, with man's more recent intervention, no large animal could possibly negotiate its way through hundreds of miles of controlled waterways



Profile view of the zeuglodontid *Basilosaurus*, based on fossil remains from Alabama dating to 35 million years ago.

and dams to the Pacific. Also, unlike with the Scottish lochs, the Lake Okanagan region is surprisingly arid--an advantage to the local wine industry--and no large marshes are present to permit the undetected transit of a large amphibious animal over land.

While some cryptozoologists believe that "lake monsters" are essentially "trapped" in their lakes, others, like Roy Mackal at the University of Chicago, propose that they do, in fact, enter and leave at will, either through waterways or across marshy terrain. Mackal concedes, however, that in some instances, such as Lake Okanagan, such animals may have become permanently trapped, not from post-glacial geological events, but from man's much more recent intervention.

The other main question often addressed is the kind of animals "lake monsters" may represent, and most observers look to arguments concerning Nessie for clues. Almost every conceivable kind of animal has been seriously proposed to explain Nessie: giant invertebrates, fish (including large eels), giant amphibians, plesiosaurs, and various kinds of mammals. Bernard Heuvelmans believes that "lake monsters" are essentially large, long-necked seals, to be found both in some lakes and in the marine environment. Mackal prefers the zeuglodon hypothesis: zeuglodonts were archaic semi-amphibious cetaceans which became extinct many millions of years ago. They had long, slender bodies, and they moved in the vertical mode typical for mammals.

In all probability, "lake

monsters" have many explanations, not the least of which is a combination of old traditions and myths, hoaxes, misperceptions, etc. There are literally dozens of North American "monster" lakes, and it is inconceivable that they could all harbor breeding colonies of giant seals, archaic whales, or whatever. In those cases where the sightings--and the entities giving rise to the sightings--are real, large fish, such as sturgeon or catfish, may be responsible.

Such explanations are hard to reconcile with the sightings reported in some lakes, however, and it is also difficult to attribute all such reports to a single kind of animal. Although Mackal feels that all such ("authentic") monster reports may ultimately be explained by surviving archaic whales, many of the reports from Loch Ness and Lake Champlain involve descriptions of bulky bodies, long necks, and small heads--a more plesiosaur-like configuration.

Ogopogo, on the other hand, has usually been described as long and slender, like the descriptions given in many of the historical "sea serpent" reports. Although the animal's head was not seen, it is intriguing to think that Mrs. Clark, who described a cetacean-like tail, may have actually observed--and been touched by--a zeuglodont.

As this report has not been made public before, the Editor invites comments concerning what kind of animal Mrs. Clark may have encountered in Lake Okanagan that July morning in 1974. □

SASQUATCH GIVEN FOSSIL NAME

An American physical anthropologist specializing in primate and human evolution has given a formal name to the reported Sasquatch (Bigfoot) of the Pacific Northwest. Grover S. Krantz, at Washington State University, in Pullman, has applied the name of the fossil species Gigantopithecus blacki to Sasquatch in an article published recently in Northwest Anthropological Research Notes (Vol. 19[1]:93-99, 1986).

Dr. Krantz, a member of the Society's Board of Directors, has had a long-time involvement with the Sasquatch problem, and he has been the leading Sasquatch advocate in the academic community. His new article is based on a paper he delivered in July, 1985, at the Society's symposium "Cryptozoology: The Search for Unknown or Supposedly Extinct Animals," held as part of the III International Congress of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology, hosted by the University of Sussex, in Brighton, England.

In assessing the status of Sasquatch and its presumed relationship to Gigantopithecus, Dr. Krantz is not concerning himself with similar evidence produced in the Eastern United States, or evidence supporting the existence of other supposed unknown hominoids or hominids in other parts of the world, such as the Himalayan Yeti, the Soviet-Mongolian Almas, or the Chinese Wildman.

In his article, Dr. Krantz first reviews what is known--or inferred--anatomically about Gigantopithecus. In actuality, only the distal, tooth-bearing parts of three mandibles and about 1,000 teeth have been recovered in China, and another mandible in India. Nevertheless, much can be learned about the species' morphology and

behavior based on fossil mandible and tooth characteristics. Dr. Krantz then presents a physical reconstruction of Gigantopithecus: "It was an erect, bipedal primate with wide shoulders and strong arms...its body would be ape-humanlike in its broad chest, short waist... It would weigh about 350 kg. (800 lbs.) and stand perhaps 2.5 m. (8 ft.) tall on legs and feet of roughly human proportions and stout design. It would be covered with normal primate hair and have a gorilla-like face."

Dr. Krantz then states: "An animal exactly fitting this description is often reported as seen in North America," and he goes on to review the nature of the various kinds of Sasquatch evidence. He then cites three footprint casts showing dermatoglyphic patterns (toeprints) and sweat pores, which, in his opinion, could not be faked (see "Walla Walla Casts Show Dermal Ridges," Newsletter, Autumn, 1982, and "Anatomy and Dermatoglyphics of Three Sasquatch Footprints," Cryptozoology, Vol. 2:53-81, 1983).

Discussing a type specimen, he points out that a specimen may consist of different bones of one individual, or, as in the Walla Walla case, three foot impressions of one individual. "We need not be concerned that footprints are not the actual remains of the animal itself," he emphasizes. "Natural casts of bones and shells are routinely used in describing fossil species. In such cases, no remains of the animal are directly involved. Rather, we record the physical impact that a part of the animal once made on its environment. Nonskeletal impressions of hair, scales, and feathers are also found in fossil form; impressions of dermal ridges should be equally valid."

"The main logical distinction in the case at hand," he points out, "would appear to be the recency of the impressions. Fossil feather impressions, or even dinosaur tracks, normally have an antiquity measured in tens of millions of years or more. In this instance, the footprints were about 2 hours old at the time of their permanent documentation. I fail to see a good reason," he concludes, "why this should make any difference in their acceptability. Obviously, it would be desirable to have actual remains of the body, but this desire applies equally to many fossil species as well."

Moving on, Dr. Krantz states that "the reconstructed appearance of G. blacki and the description of the Sasquatch are identical in all respects where they deal with the same features," and that "the possibility of two gigantic, bipedal, higher primate species can be considered very unlikely." "In spite of this close correspondence," he continues, "the normal procedure for naming the Sasquatch would be to assign it new generic and trivial names. And the normal sequence of events would then be to sink these names as it becomes evident that the Sasquatch is indeed G. blacki."

Instead, Dr. Krantz proposes an alternative scenario: "Rather than follow this time-honored procedure, I wish to reverse the sequence of taxonomic events here. Its [Sasquatch's] equation with the known fossil form is proposed, then suggestions are made to upgrade its level of taxonomic distinction if and when new data should warrant this: It is realized that such upgradings as given here cannot be taken as official names, but it is hoped that they will be considered if and when the time

comes.

"The three footprints discussed above are hereby referred to the known species Gigantopithecus blacki," he continues, "thus making it pointless to label them as the 'type' specimen. Any and all other data relating to the animal, commonly known as the North American Sasquatch or Bigfoot, is similarly referred to this species." Indicating his preference for Gigantopithecus being a hominid (in the human lineage--but not to be confused with the genus Homo)--rather than a hominoid (in the ape lineage), he states: "This genus is also treated as belonging to the family Hominidae on the basis of erect bipedal locomotion."

Before ending his paper, Dr. Krantz recognizes that his assignment of Sasquatch to the species Gigantopithecus blacki may, in the end, prove to be incorrect. If a specific distinction should become necessary, due to the tropical location of the fossils in contrast to the temperate forest habitat of the living form, he proposes

G. canadensis, to reflect the Nearctic location of the living form. Should possible future osteological discoveries refer Sasquatch to a different fossil hominid genus, this would almost certainly be Australopithecus, in which case he proposes the species name A. canadensis--a new species designation would be warranted by Sasquatch's much more massive size.

In the unlikely event that future fossil finds of Gigantopithecus prove it not to have been fully bipedal after all--and assuming that Sasquatch is not otherwise osteologically linked to Australopithecus--a new genus name would have to be erected for the living Sasquatch, and Dr. Krantz proposes that, in such a case, Gigantanthropus be applied, with the same trivial name of canadensis. (Gigantanthropus was proposed in 1945 by Franz Weidenreich for Gigantopithecus, but priority ruled out its usage, making the name still available).

Dr. Krantz ends his article by calling for increased efforts to find further physical evi-

dence of Sasquatch, but that "it is equally important that serious scientific investigation be made of the existing evidence." Dr. Krantz's bold move in equating the supposed living Sasquatch with a presumed extinct higher primate in order to give the former a formal name--a step which may be criticized by some--in the culmination of over 15 years of intense investigation of the problem, of frustrations in his inability to get most other anthropologists interested in the subject, and even of unstated academic penalties, such as lack of promotion, because of his involvement with a topic most other anthropologists would rather not see addressed.

Although the widespread application in academic circles of the name of the fossil genus Gigantopithecus to a supposed living form is doubtful at the present time, Dr. Krantz clearly has his proposal in print and on record, and it will be referable to if and when a specimen of a Sasquatch ever reaches scientific hands. □

RAIDERS OF THE LOST AUK

The first inkling that something was afoot came from a brief article in London's Daily Mail on May 3, 1986. "Five Britons," the Mail stated, "will sail to the Orkneys tomorrow to prove that a bird last seen in 1844 is not extinct. They hope to find a great auk on the island of Papa Westray, its last known nesting place in the British Isles. There have been several unconfirmed sightings in recent years. Most of the 80 people living on the island will join the search for the bird."

This startling information went completely unreported on the American side of the Atlantic, and little else appeared in the British press. Certainly the possible rediscovery of the

great auk (Alca impennis) would be of tremendous interest to both the scientific world and the public. The great auk, once numbering in the millions, inhabited craggy cliffs and rocks from Newfoundland to Britain and Scandinavia. A penguin-like bird which stood about 2-3 feet tall, the great auk was unable to fly, although it was a good diver. Furthermore, its clumsy terrestrial locomotion made it easy prey, "as if God," wrote a 14th century traveler, "had made the innocence of so poor a creature to become such an admirable instrument for the sustension of man."

Gradually, the large colonies in Newfoundland, Iceland, and northern Europe were decimated.

Collectors offered high prices for great auk skins in the early 19th century, and what was believed to be the very last nesting pair was killed by a fisherman in 1844 on Eldey Rock, off of Iceland--and in the excitement, the sole remaining egg was crushed.

Over the decades, occasional reports of great auks--never verified--were picked up by ornithologists, such as an 1890 report from Greenland. A 1920's report collected by British ornithologist H. A. A. Dombrain in Norway was perhaps the most recent--until news of the supposed sightings on the Orkney Islands appeared in the British press in 1986. The last known specimen in the British Isles



The great auk, *Alca impennis*, which supposedly became extinct in 1844. "Hasn't it suffered enough?"

(and Europe) was taken in 1834 in southern Ireland -- not the Orkneys, where the last pair was taken as early as 1812 (one is now in the British Museum collection). Furthermore, it is believed that the great auk never actually nested in the Orkneys, a group of rugged islands off of the northern tip of Scotland, but was, at most, an occasional visitor there. Writing in 1813, naturalist G. Low stated that he "often inquired about the great auk especially, but cannot find it is ever seen here." This negative historical evidence does not, of course, totally invalidate the possibility that the great auk once nested on the Orkneys--or is nesting there today.

British ISC member Michael Playfair, his curiosity aroused by the announced expedition, wrote to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and

received back a copy of an April press release from Cartmell Public Relations, in Blackpool, which provided more details, a copy of which he then sent to the ISC Secretariat.

"In the manner of the great Victorian explorers," the release stated, "five adventurers will soon be embarking on a voyage of discovery.... Code-named Operation Aukfinder ... a team of yachtsmen--all members of the world-famous Royal Findhorn Yacht Club of Scotland--aim to track down the elusive great auk and convince the world that the shy bird has not yet gone the way of the Dodo." The release continued: "The Project, which has the backing of naturalists and bird experts, has already ruffled a few feathers in the ornithological world," and the negative views of Aberdeen University ornithologist Robert Ralph were mentioned. However, team leader Doug Yates, 43, who works for the Forestry Commission, was "adamant that he is about to cause a flap in the bird world."

The press release continued: "This expedition certainly has more of a substantial footing than the pursuit of the Yetis, mythical wildcats, and the Loch Ness Monster." The expedition, 8 months in the planning, was then compared to the voyages of Charles Darwin and Sir James Clark Ross. All team members were described as "keen naturalists," and they included a pilot, a farmer, an RAF flight engineer, and an oilman. The team planned to sail 90 miles to Kirkwall on the Orkneys, from where they would proceed to Papa Westray, where "islanders there still talk of the great auk Most of the island--population less than 80 souls--will help in the search."

The press release--which the original Daily Mail story was undoubtedly based on--also stated quite specifically that, "over the past few years, there have been several as yet uncon-

firmed sightings" of the great auk. Ominously, however, the release was "issued on behalf of Canadian Club," and it also stated that the team had won the Canadian Club Uncommon Challenge Competition. This same distilling firm had, in the 1970's, used cryptozoological motifs in its marketing efforts, such as supposedly burying cases of Canadian Club whiskey in Bigfoot and Nessie country, to be unearthed by following certain clues.

The true nature of Operation Aukfinder was finally revealed by journalist Stephen Pile, writing in The Sunday Times on May 11, 1986. Pile wrote that as May 4 approached, "the excitement just got too much, and at great expense to The Sunday Times, I set off for the remote north." Finally arriving on the Orkneys, he found "most of Fleet Street [the London press corps] installed in the hotel bar."

Shortly thereafter, "two members of a public relations company arrived to give us free bottles of what my discerning palate can only describe as a sweet, sickly, unpleasant whiskey that might just do as aircraft fuel, but I would not advise anyone to put it in the tank of a domestic vehicle. We were given T-shirts, a vast dinner and press folder.... It was immediately obvious that this poor bird (hasn't it suffered enough?) was now going to be used to promote a brand of whiskey whose name I refuse to mention."

"Cleverly," Mr. Pile continued, "the geniuses behind this particular venture have spotted that the press will endlessly print whacky pictures and stories which confirm the popular but mistaken view that the British are a race of zany, madcap individualists and eccentrics." He then goes on to describe the "great auk hunt" on the small island of Papa Westray, "where folklorique croft-

ers contrive not to die of boredom or kill each other." The yacht team wore "yellow brand-new sailing outfits with the Whiskey Whose Name I Refuse To Mention written over them. The captain wore a hat with a stuffed auk on it, and the press photographed this great news item. The hunters then set off on their yachts, and the journalists were exhorted to join them. During this voyage, little attention was made to looking for auks, and the main endeavor was to run up a sail bearing the inevitable advertisement which we were supposed to photograph.

"...Back on land, the two PR people took us around this completely boring island, making

supposedly colorful local characters tell us their stories.... Only when the PRs went away did [one] monosyllabic islander open up. 'I hate this place,' he said, adding that he had wasted 60 years of his life here, and did we know any girls? He then said that, in common with all the other islanders, he thought we were all a bunch of fruitcakes. 'Where is the news in this?' he inquired." During a lunch with more "disbelieving islanders," one of the PR men exclaimed: "There's been a sighting!" After rushing to the pier, the pressmen were treated to a dinghy containing "auk hunters with pith helmets and butterfly nets pursuing a remote-controlled auk." Pile's reaction was "that this was a

totally cynical publicity stunt, and that, to be blunt, we had all been had. Some brave soul suggested that we ring our newspapers and tell them what had happened. 'What?' said one, 'you mean the truth option?' 'We can't do that,' said another. 'Once you start telling the truth there is no saying where it will end.'"

"The Daily Mail man said he was going to expose this cynical publicity stunt, but next morning his story did not appear. The Daily Record," Pile stated in ending his own story, "made the best of a bad job with pictures of the mechanical auk, and locals saying the animal might still be there." □

WÜRSIG, ZUG JOIN EDITORIAL BOARD

Bernd Würsig, a marine mammalogist, and George Zug, a herpetologist, have joined the Editorial Board of Cryptozoology, the Society's journal, replacing Eugenie Clark and David Heppell, who were recently elected to the Board of Directors.

Dr. Würsig has been an active researcher in the behavior and ecology of cetaceans and pinnipeds (and their interactions with birds, fish, and marine invertebrates), the movement and migration patterns of dolphins and whales, cetacean tagging techniques, and comparative behavior and cognition in wild and captive dolphins. His research has taken him to many parts of the world, and his recent work has involved the study of dusky dolphin behavior off of Argentina and New Zealand, and gray whale and bowhead whale behavior off of Alaska.

He is the author of many technical publications, and has also written several popular articles--see in particular "Dolphins" in Scientific American (1979, Vol. 240 [3]:136-

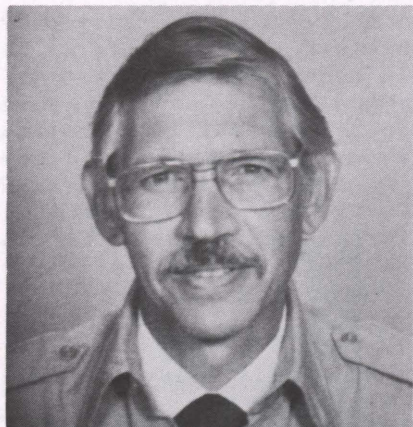


Bernd Würsig.

148), and "The Day and the Night of the Dolphin" in Natural History (1979, Vol. 88 [3]:60-67). A new article, "The Great Whales," is currently in press with Scientific American. A native of West Germany, Dr. Würsig obtained a doctorate in Behavioral Biology and Ecology

at the State University of New York, Stony Brook, in 1978, after which he conducted post-doctoral research at the Center for Marine Studies at the University of California at Santa Cruz (1978-1981). He is currently on the faculty of the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories of California State University. A Comment by Bernd Würsig and his colleague Greg Silber is in press in Vol. 5 of Cryptozoology.

George Zug was a founding Director of the Society (1982-1986) and hosted the founding Board meeting in January of 1982 at the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), Smithsonian Institution. Dr. Zug completed his doctoral work at the University of Michigan in 1968, after which he joined the staff of the Division of Amphibians and Reptiles at NMNH. Following appointments as Assistant Curator, Associate Curator, and Curator, he served as Chairman of the Department of Vertebrate Zoology (1977-1983). He is now Curator-in-Charge of the Division of Amphibians and Reptiles.



George R. Zug.

Dr. Zug's research interests have ranged from fossil and extant turtles, to iguanid anatomy, the functional morphology of frogs, turtles, and crocodiles, and many aspects of species ecology and distribution. His research has taken him to Cuba, Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, Fiji, Australia, Papua New Guinea, and Nepal. He is the author of many technical publications, and has served on the governing boards of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, the Society for the Study of Amphib-

ians and Reptiles, and the Herpetologists League. Dr. Zug's interest in cryptozoology has been primarily in relation to the question of possible large unknown animals in Loch Ness and other temperate lakes, as well as other cryptozoological reports with possible herpetological implications. □

"Man wants to know, and when he ceases to do so, he is no longer man."

Fridtjof Nansen
Polar explorer

DAVID JAMES, 1919-1986

It is with deep regret that the Society announces the death of David James, one of its Honorary Members, at his Torosay Castle, Isle of Mull, Scotland. The following obituary was written by Mr. James' old friend Richard Fitter, a co-founder of the old Loch Ness Investigation Bureau, and currently Chairman of Britain's Fauna and Flora Preservation Society.

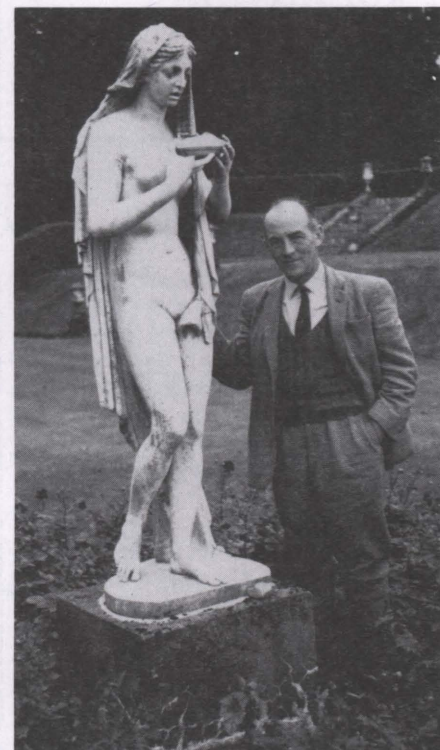
David James, who died last December at age 66, was the originator of the Loch Ness Investigation Bureau (LNIB). He always blamed me for having enthused him so much about the Loch Ness Monster mystery that he felt he had to make an effort to solve it himself. So, in the winter of 1960-61, he started a series of study conferences, and in 1962 persuaded Peter Scott, Norman Collins, and myself to join him as Directors of the Bureau. This was registered as a company limited by guarantee, and we set off in the ultimately fruitless attempt to identify Nessie. One of the Bureau's first acts was to design a questionnaire for those who sighted Nessie to describe in detail what they saw.

David soon launched what was originally known as David James' Expedition to Loch Ness, and for many years he ran it as a camp

for volunteer Nessie-watchers at Achnahannet--on the west (north) side of Loch Ness, a little south of Urquhart Castle. However, although this resulted in many interesting sightings and some puzzling photographs, these were almost all at too great a distance to be sure even that they represented Nessie, let alone to determine what Nessie was. Nevertheless, all who ever stayed at the camp regarded themselves as belonging to one of the world's more select clubs--as, indeed, they did! In the end, alas, it was felt that the Bureau had served its purpose; so, in 1976 it was closed down. Throughout its existence, it was David who made it tick, and who did most of the donkey work.

Adventurousness was the key to David James' character, and the Bureau was one of his great adventures. Before that, he had sailed before the mast in a Finnish four-masted barque that took part in one of the last grain races from Australia; he served in motor gunboats in the North Sea during World War II, and escaped twice from a German prisoner-of-war camp, the second time successfully; and, in 1945, he joined an expedition to Graham Land in the Antarctic.

Such a man has many facets to his career, as author, explorer,



David James at home: Torosay Castle, Isle of Mull, Scotland. Adventurousness was the key. (Photo by Roy Mackal.)

sailor, intelligence officer, politician, sportsman, and landowner. He was twice a Conservative Member of Parliament, losing his first seat in a cliff-hanger by seven votes. His friends will remember him, above all, for his enthusiasm and for his ability to get things done.

Richard Fitter
Oxford, England

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

It hardly seems possible, but 5 years have passed since Richard Greenwell and I sat down with a group of scientists at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, to found the International Society of Cryptozoology. We were hosted by George Zug, Curator of Amphibians and Reptiles, and, at the time, Chairman of the Smithsonian's Department of Vertebrate Zoology.

Not all the founding Board members could attend this Washington meeting, but we had fair representation. From France came Bernard Heuvelmans, the undisputed "father" of cryptozoology. From Canada we had Paul LeBlond, an oceanographer who has investigated many "sea serpent" reports. Americans who attended were Grover Krantz, a physical anthropologist who has done extensive research into the question of Sasquatch (Bigfoot), as well as marine biologist Forrest Wood and cell biologist Joe Gennaro, who have investigated the question of the giant octopus. Other Board members represented Bulgaria, China, France, South Africa, the USSR, and the USA. Bernard Heuvelmans was unanimously elected President of the Society, I was elected Vice President, and Richard Greenwell was elected Secretary and appointed Editor of Publications.



Roy Mackal (left) visiting Richard Greenwell at the University of Arizona in 1981. Would a cryptozoology society receive support from other scientists?

Quite frankly, I was surprised that so many highly respected scientists were not only interested in cryptozoology, but were also willing to participate actively and publicly in the Society. How many more, I wondered, would come out of the woodwork after the Society was formed? Actually, during a period prior to the formal founding of the Society, Richard and I had sometimes discussed whether or not such a society would ever receive support from other scientists. I must admit to a great deal of skepticism in this regard prior to the study of scientific attitudes toward the Loch Ness Monster and Sasquatch which he and James King conducted. It was the results of this study that finally convinced me that, if such a society were managed properly and followed established scientific procedures, it would in fact receive support from at least some scientists, as well as the public. Thus, we made plans to move ahead.

The Society's first 5 years of existence have, I believe, been an unqualified success. To be sure, problems have arisen: financial crises and delayed publications, some members accusing us of being too liberal, some others accusing us of being too conservative (and some just accusing us!). Richard has had to serve as the lightning rod in these instances, and I am not even going to get into the job he has done as Secretary and Editor, against all odds. Despite these problems, the overwhelming majority of communications to me confirms my assessment that the Society has been accomplishing its goals successfully.

I would now like to take this opportunity to recap what these accomplishments have been--that is, those which can be quantified, as I am sure there are

many other accomplishments which are difficult to quantify in this manner: Twenty newsletters have been published, representing a total of about 200,000 words, including the publication of 80 letters from members on many different subjects. As for the journal, five volumes have been published, totaling 700 pages of scholarly material. This includes 26 articles, 6 research reports, 18 field reports, 35 book reviews, and 69 comments and responses.

In addition, the Society has held five Membership Meetings, at The University of British Columbia, Vancouver (1982); New York University, New York (1983); the University of Paris VI, Paris (1984); the Hubbs-Seaworld Research Institute, San Diego (1985); and The University of Chicago, Chicago (1986). If my count is correct, a total of 21 talks/presentations have been given at these forums. Also, the Society sponsored the Symposium entitled "Cryptozoology: The Search for Unknown or Supposedly Extinct Animals," held as part of the III International Congress of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology (ICSEB III), at the University of Sussex, Brighton, England, on July 7, 1985. A total of eight scholarly papers were delivered at that formal symposium. All in all, I'd say this is a pretty good record.

We can all be justly proud of the Society and what it has achieved in such a short span of time with limited resources. Most of all, I believe we have had a significant impact on the scientific community, on the media, and on the general public in demonstrating the premise that cryptozoology is a legitimate scientific endeavor.

Roy P. Mackal
Vice President
April, 1987

FINAL EDINBURGH PROGRAM

The program for the Society's 1987 Membership Meeting in Edinburgh has been finalized. As stated in previous newsletters, the meeting will be held on Saturday and Sunday, July 25-26, at the Royal Museum of Scotland (formerly the Royal Scottish Museum), Chambers Street. The meeting (preceded on July 24 by the Board of Directors Meeting) is being hosted by the National Museums of Scotland and is sponsored jointly by ISC and the Society for the History of Natural History (SHNH), not just the Scottish Board of SHNH as indicated previously. (SHNH was known previously as the Society for the Biography of Natural History.)

The first function will be a private social hour for members of ISC and SHNH and their guests, to be held from 9 to 10 a.m. on July 25 in the British Bird Hall (admission through the main entrance). The first-day Symposium will commence at 10 in the Lecture Theatre, and is entitled "The Search for Nessie in the 1980's." Both this Symposium and the July 26 Symposium, "Some Cats of Cryptozoology," will be open to the public for a nominal £1 per day entrance fee (admission through the rear entrance). Paid-up ISC and SHNH members will be admitted free, provided they have registered and reserved their seats with David Heppell, Department of Natural History, Royal Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF, United Kingdom. Mr. Heppell, who serves on the Society's Board of Directors, is Curator of Mollusca at the Museum. He will be the meeting's Chairman and Moderator.

The final program is as follows:

Saturday, July 25th Symposium THE SEARCH FOR NESSIE IN THE 1980s

Morning Session

- 10:00 Welcoming Remarks
Robert G. W. Anderson
- 10:05 "The History of the Loch Ness Monster"
Richard Fitter
- 10:45 "The Biology of the Loch Ness Monster"
Roy P. Mackal
- 11:30 "Public Perception of the Loch Ness Monster"
Henry H. Bauer
- 12:15 "The Wilson Nessie Photo: A Size Determination Based on Physical Principles"
Paul H. LeBlond
- 1:00 Break for Lunch

Afternoon Session

- 2:00 "Recent Fieldwork by the Loch Ness and Morar Project"
Adrian J. Shine
- 2:40 "A Review of Research Contributions to Date of the Academy of Applied Science at Loch Ness"
Robert H. Rines
- 3:20 Break for Tea/Coffee
- 3:50 "Three Decades of Nessie Hunting: A Personal Odyssey"
Tim Dinsdale
- 4:30 Panel Debate with all speakers and questions from the floor

Sunday, July 26th Symposium SOME CATS OF CRYPTOZOOLOGY

Morning Session

- 10:00 "The Case for the British Big Cat"
Di Francis
- 10:45 "The Kellas Cat: An Overlooked Felid From Scotland"
Karl P. N. Shuker
- 11:30 "The King Cheetah: A New Race in the Making?"
Lena and Paul Bottriell
- 12:15 Break for Lunch

Afternoon Session

- 1:30 "The Onza: Its History and Biology"
J. Richard Greenwell and Troy L. Best
- 2:15 "The Queensland Tiger-Cat: Evidence for the Possible Survival of the Marsupial Lion, *Thylacoleo*, Into Recent Times"
Victor A. Albert
- 3:00 Concluding Remarks

A copy of the final program appeared on the back page of Vol. 5 (1986) of the Society's journal, *Cryptozoology*, and programs and registration materials have also been mailed to all ISC members and former members in Europe. At this late stage, members who have not registered but wish to attend should communicate with Mr. Heppell immediately by telephone (31/225-7534). Attending members may purchase buffet lunches on both days, but neither the Society nor the Museum is arranging for meals or accommodations. A 2-day bus tour to Loch Ness has been planned, and will leave immediately after the Saturday symposium.

The 1987 Membership Meeting, composed of the social hour and the two symposia, will be the most ambitious one the Society will have sponsored, and it also represents the most comprehensive public forum ever held on the question of the controversial Loch Ness Monster. The Society is indebted to the National Museums of Scotland and the Society for the History of Natural History for their support and collaboration. The Meeting is being dedicated to the memory of the late David James, an Honorary Member of the Society and founder of the former Loch Ness Investigation Bureau (see obituary elsewhere in this issue), and the late Ian Lyster, Curator of Ornithology at the Royal Museum of Scotland, who was an ardent Nessie enthusiast. □

CRYPTOLETTERS

The Editor welcomes letters from readers on any topic related to cryptozoology, but reserves the right to shorten them or to make slight changes to improve style and clarity, but not meaning.

To the Editor:

The views quoted from Jared Diamond (*Newsletter*, Spring, 1986) are muddled and pathetic. His notions vis-a-vis molecular studies (biochemistry) and systematics are foolish. It is as though he claimed that, now we have computers, we should abandon air travel: a complete non sequitur.

Biochemistry or "molecular biology" is not really biology at all; it is a branch of chemistry. At present, virtually all of it is being done at the level of popular science and medical technology (what I call "popscimedtech"), strictly for money. The people who do it are not biologists in any holistic or meaningful sense.

All present evidence is that the biological realm is vast compared to our paltry knowledge of it. If one considers any animal species as yet unknown to science to be a cryptozoan (and one may argue that many are very common and easily discovered if one visits their habitats), then cryptozoology is the most important branch of modern biology. It is absolutely elementary that we know and recognize the other living things on this planet. Until we get to know them, we have no idea what sorts of resources we squander with every impoundment, clearcut, and housing development.

Even if we restrict cryptozoology to the search for relatively big, rare, and/or presumed extinct species, the practical and educational values to be gleaned are enormous. Imagine what rediscovery of the

thylacine, alive and reproducing, will do for Tasmania. If the Onza does turn out to be a distinct species, the opportunity to preserve and study it--alive in the wild and under captive conditions--could be a huge boost for Mexico at a critical time.

I sincerely hope Dr. Diamond will continue his own searches and researches for and on rare, little-known, and "extinct" species. If he considered reptiles, amphibians, and mammals he could no doubt find new species in New Guinea (birds are harder; try Fiji). I discovered a new subspecies of rabbit in 1980--in Florida.

We are far from even a simple directory with all the names and addresses of our fellow species. Let's leave the biochemists where they belong, in their laboratories shuffling their megabucks, in pursuit of medical miracles. And let us get on with the basic task of finding out about life on Earth.

James D. Lazell, Jr.
The Conservation Agency
Jamestown, Rhode Island, U.S.A.

(James Lazell is a zoologist affiliated with the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale University, and the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University.)

To the Editor:

As a new member, I have recently received a copy of the article on the Onza and the Lee brothers (*Newsletter*, Spring, 1986). It so happens that, before the war, I lived only a quarter of a mile from them in the desert north of Tucson. Dale's nephew, John, was a good schoolfriend of mine. I didn't go over there much, but it was always interesting when I did go. They always had a cougar or a bobcat around, which they used to train the dogs with.

My family had a lot of stories about the Lee brothers. The one I remember best is the time they had a wounded jaguar in a cave. Dale went into the cave alone and got it. That took some real courage. No one could possibly know more about cougars [pumas] than they did. They hunted them, they raised them, and they spent their entire lives with them. If Dale claims the Onza is different, you can bet everything you own that it is, indeed, different. There isn't one professor in the whole world who could know more about cougars than the Lee brothers did. The last time I saw Dale was in 1946 or thereabouts. That's a long time ago.

Stanley Samuelson
Cordova, Alaska, U.S.A.

To the Editor:

I was very interested in reading about the findings of Christine Janis, concerning the possible survival of fossil ungulates into historical times (*Newsletter*, Summer, 1986). It has long been my opinion that some interesting and provocative information on the existence of relict species is to be found in artistic artifacts from around the world. I hope that such subject matter will find its way into our journal, Cryptozoology.

Robert Shatkin
Brooklyn, New York, U.S.A.

Dr. Janis is submitting an article based on her 1985 Brighton and 1986 Chicago addresses to the ISC journal. --Editor

"The fact that a believer is happier than a skeptic is no more to the point than the fact that a drunken man is happier than a sober one. The happiness of credulity is a cheap and dangerous quality."

George Bernard Shaw
In preface to
Androcles and the Lion

WOOD'S ANIMAL FACTS

The largest frog in the world is the rare goliath frog (Conraua goliath) of Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon, West Africa. On August 23, 1960, the Spanish naturalist Dr. Jorge Sabater Pi and his native helper caught a female in the cataracts of the River Mbia, Bata District, Rio Muni, which had a snout-vent length of 13.39 in. (340 mm.), and measured 32.1 in. (815 mm.) overall. It weighed 7 lb., 4 3/4 oz. (3.305 g.). A slightly longer female (14 in., 356 mm.) collected in the same river by Dr. Paul Zahl in December, 1966 (and now preserved in the Museum of the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C.) tipped the scales at 6 lb., 13 1/4 oz. (3,100 g.). Another specimen killed in Cameroon in the early part of the century allegedly had a snout-vent length of 24 in. (609 mm.), and weighed 13 lb. (5,890 g.), but this record has never been veri-

fied and was probably exaggerated.

Most adult female frogs are considerably larger than the males because they produce enormous numbers of eggs within their bodies. According to Oliver (1955), the heaviest American bullfrog (Rana catesbeiana) on record was a female which scaled 1 lb., 4 oz. (567 g.), but in 1949 Jim Pratt caught an outsized freak in Martha Lake, Alderwood Manor, Washington, which reportedly scaled 7 lb., 4 oz. (3,289 g.), and measured 36 in. (914 mm.) in total length. Unfortunately, further details are lacking, but the length-weight ratio is proportional.

Mention should also be made of the famous "Coleman Frog," the most awesome exhibit in York-Sunbury Historical Society's museum in Fredericton, New

Brunswick, Canada, which allegedly weighed 42 lb. (19 kg.) when it was dynamited from Killarney Lake in the prime of its life in 1885.

The largest toad in the world is the marine toad (Bufo marinus) of tropical South America, which--thanks to man--is probably the most widely distributed amphibian living today. An enormous female collected at Miraflores, Colombia, on November 24, 1965, and later exhibited at the New York Zoological Park, had a snout-vent length of 9.37 in. (238 mm.) and weighed 2 lb., 14 oz. (1,302 g.) at the time of her death. This specimen is now preserved in the American Museum of Natural History, New York.

Abstracted from:

The Guinness Book of Animal Facts and Feats, by Gerald L. Wood, Guinness Superlatives, Enfield, U.K. (3rd ed.), 1982.

Honorary Members: Andre Capart (Belgium); Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer (South Africa); Marie-Jeanne Koffman (Soviet Union); Ingo Krumbiegel (Federal German Republic); Theodore Monod (France); John R. Napier (United Kingdom); Sir Peter Scott (United Kingdom).

Benefactors: G. A. Buder, III (United States); Robert C. Dorion (Guatemala); Michael T. Martin (United States); Gale J. Raymond (United States); Kurt Von Nieda (United States); Edward B. Winn (Switzerland); Bette and Joe Wolfskill (United States); Count F. C. Zedlitz (Argentina).

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